



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Volume XX-03

Number 29

August 11, 2003

Inside Wallops

Wallops Senior Manager Addresses Employees During Morning Coffee



Photo by Betty Flowers

Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, answers questions during the morning coffee.

The latest in the employee coffees was held at the Wallops cafeteria on a wet August 7 morning. For the first part of the coffee, employees and senior managers had an opportunity to talk one-on-one.

During the second half hour of the program Dr. John Campbell, Wallops Senior Manager, discussed a wide variety of topics including safety and agency return to flight; a recap of programs at Wallops this year; and a look at Wallops future activities including projects, the strategic plan and the Education and Research Park.



Photo by Betty Flowers

Approximately 65 Wallops employees turned out for the Employee Coffee.

GSFC Annual Honor Awards

The following Goddard Space Flight Center Honor Awards were presented during a ceremony held July 23 in Greenbelt.

Felipe Arroyo

"In recognition of your sustained commitment in support of the Wallops Flight Facility Launch Range."

Gary M. Burgess

"In recognition of your years of dedication, innovation and engineering in the development of the Mobile Power Systems and the Mobile Range Pad at Wallops Flight Facility."

Susan M. Fields

"In recognition of your dedication, professionalism and commitment to the Wallops Restoration Program. Through your leadership, professional excellence and development of a proactive restoration strategy, this program has flourished and demonstrates the use of the best technologies, methods and science in protecting the natural resources."

NASA Sounding Rocket Project Team – Northrop Grumman

"In recognition of your exceptional achievement in support of the NASA Sounding Rocket (NSROC) Program and the NASA mission (39 straight mission successes)."

Wallops Shorts.....

Rocket Launch

A NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) Terrier MK70 Improved Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from Wallops Island on August 1.

The flight was to prove the NSROC developed Magnetic Attitude Control System (NMACS). The NMACS executed required pointing maneuvers, however, gas required for the total flight exceeded expectations. Additional analysis of flight data is required to determine the cause. This mission was the first of two test flights for system validation to flight qualify the NMACS for seven missions currently slated for 2004.

A secondary experiment to investigate the feasibility of using the Iridium satellite system for low-rate, full-duplex, two-way communications received data for a portion of the flight.

Target applications for this project are two-way communications for tracking and telemetry for weather balloons, tracking and commanding for inhabited and uninhabited aircraft and two-way backup communications systems for rockets. The Iridium Flight Modem is a joint project at Kennedy Space Center and Wallops Flight Facility.

The principal investigator was David Krause, NSROC. Mission manager was Bruce Scott, NSROC, and the project manager was David Moltedo, Range and Mission Management Office.

Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from the Palestine, Texas, on August 7.

The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon was a test flight in support of the Phase B Semi-Automatic Parachute Release system qualification.

The principal investigator was Mike Farman of the National Scientific Balloon Facility.

In the News

The Record –Herald and Indianola Tribune, Indianola, IN
"NASA Exhibit to Visit Balloon Museum"

Wonderful Summer

Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

Although July was slightly wetter and warmer than normal, it was a very tranquil month along the Eastern Shore.

No record high or low temperatures were set. The high temperature reached 90 degrees on five days last month, the warmest being a 92-degree reading on the July 5. The coolest temperature was an early morning low of 65 degrees that occurred on July 20. Despite the fact there were no prolonged, hot periods during July, the average temperature was 1.4 degrees above normal.

Along with being warmer than normal, July also was wetter than normal with measurable rain falling on 13 days instead of the average 10 days. Rainfall totaled 4.48 inches, nearly 1 inch above the monthly average of 3.54 inches.

There were at least nine days with thunderstorms that often produced heavy rain in a short period of time contributing to the rainfall totals.



So what lies ahead for us weather-wise in September? Temperatures finally start to cool off a bit with the approach of autumn. High temperatures are in the low 80's at the beginning of the month, falling to the low to mid 70's as October approaches. Low temperatures are in the mid 60's at the beginning of the month, but fall to the mid 50's by the end of September.

Wide variations in temperatures can occur with the all-time record high being a 96-degree reading that occurred on Sept. 11, 1983. The all-time record low occurred on Sept. 30, 1970, when the mercury hit a chilly 40 degrees. Measurable rainfall usually occurs on 8 days in September, with the average rainfall being 3.44 inches.

September also brings the hurricane/tropical storm season to a climax, as it is usually the most active month in the U.S. We have been fortunate so far this year that tropical systems have largely stayed away from the U.S.

The National Hurricane Center seasonal outlook still calls for 11-15 tropical storms, 6-9 hurricanes and 2-4 major hurricanes this year.

Stay prepared! The biggest tropical threat is yet to come.

Thanks for the Support

"Thank you (Rich Rogers and Jane Penn, NASA Aircraft Office) for hosting students from the Airways Science Program of the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (CMST) on July 3, 2003. Everyone at the Wallops Flight Facility made the students and their chaperones feel welcome.

Please thank everyone we met (Doug Young, Aircraft Office; Jim Barnes, DynCorp and Frank Shannon, GHG) for giving of their time and expertise to make the tour a memorable and educational experience.

.....Joe Zeminski, Director of CMST, Westminster, MD.

"I'd like to thank you for your support of the "Centennial of Flight - Blimp Meet", that took place at the Air Force Museum, Dayton, OH, July 11-13, 2003.Wallop's displays and knowledgeable representatives made our exhibit a real crowd pleaser.

The feedback I've received from Centennial of Flight officials has been very positive. I believe the NASA exhibit was the most popular by far, and we couldn't have pulled this event together without your unselfish support. We had a number of displays to assemble, under less than ideal conditions, considering the heat, humidity, and our greatest obstacle, gusty winds. Through it all we constructed an exhibit that was educational, fun, and visually stimulating.

Thanks Debora Fairbrother (NASA Balloon Program Office) for enthusiastically working with me to ensure we had a nice cross section of displays from the Balloon Program Office. I also want to thank you for the excellent support we received from Magdi Said, (NASA BPO); Hugo Franko, (New Mexico State University, Physical Science Laboratory) and Sam Belt, (New Mexico State University Co-op). They represented Goddard in an outstanding manner, with their knowledge of balloon technology, along with their professionalism and dedicated hard work. Everyone gave 100%, and it was truly a pleasure working with all of them.

Working together I believe we (NASA) enhanced our reputation for excellence, and provided the consumer with an educational and fun venue to enjoy. Thanks once again for the outstanding support."

.....Bill Saettel, Blimp Meet Project Lead, NASA John H. Glenn Research Center

Balloon Exhibit



Photo by Magdi Said.

Sam Belt, Balloon Program Office Co-op Student from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M., talks to visitors.

The Balloon Program Office set up an exhibit at the National Balloon Museum in Indianola, IA., August 1 - 4, during the annual "National Balloon Classic". The display included information on the balloon program mission and activities, ULDB development, research and development and planetary ballooning. Two model balloons were inflated: a pumpkin and a zero pressure. A meteorological balloon also was inflated for comparison. The video, "Pushing the envelope", was running on a continuous basis. Attendance was estimated to be 100,000.

Lobster Fest

6 p.m.
August 15
Building F-3



Tickets are \$16.50 and can be purchased in the Wallops Exchange, Building E-2. For further information call x2020.

Women's Equality Day Luncheon

Sarah Byrn Rickman is the featured speaker for a luncheon celebrating Women's Equality Day on August 26 in the Williamsburg Room, Building E-2.

Rickman, a former reporter/columnist, is now a freelance writer/editor and author of two published books. Her talk will be based on her nonfiction work, *The Originals*, *The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of World War II*.

For tickets contact the Exchange, x2020. For more information, see the Women of Wallops Federal Women's Program website <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~FWP>.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

Editor: Betty Flowers